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Letter dated 22 March 2011 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to Security Council resolution 1973 (2011), adopted on 17 March 2011, and to my letters dated 18 March and 19 March 2011, regarding measures authorized by paragraphs 4 and 8 of the resolution to "protect civilians and civilian populated areas under threat of attack" and to "enforce compliance with the ban on flights imposed by paragraph 6" of the resolution.

I wish to inform you that, in the period since 19 March, France has conducted the following operations:

- Further missions for reconnaissance, air defence and patrolling of Libyan airspace in order to implement the no-fly zone.
- Deployment of vessels of the Naval Aviation battle group of the French Navy off the coast of Libya for maritime surveillance, air detection and anti-aircraft missions.
- Strikes carried out to protect civilians and civilian populated areas around Benghazi, resulting in the destruction of armoured vehicles of Colonel Qadhafi's forces.

These operations were conducted in cooperation with other States.

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gérard **Araud**

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